AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A high-speed mail processing system having a conveyor system for transferring a plurality of mail pieces among two or more mail processing components and a controller for directing the operations of the components, the system comprising:

a postage computing device for separately calculating postage value due for each individual mail piece of said plurality of mail pieces, said postage computing device operable to use said calculated postage value to generate an information based postage indicia for ~~an individual~~ a mail piece of said plurality of mail pieces in parallel with the ~~individual~~ mail piece of said plurality of mail pieces being physically created and processed by at least one mail processing component of said two or more mail processing components;

a postage application printer positioned to print said information based postage indicia on ~~a corresponding one of~~ the mail ~~pieces~~ piece of said plurality of mail pieces that ~~are~~ is being moved by the conveyor system, wherein said information based postage indicia is available for printing by said postage application printer at the time ~~the corresponding one of~~ the mail ~~pieces~~ piece of said plurality of mail pieces arrives at said postage application printer; and

a computer processing system for storing information related to the processing of each individual mail piece of said plurality of mail pieces and for providing the controller with the processing information.

2.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a quality control unit ~~for~~ adapted to monitor ~~monitoring~~ the postage value calculated by the postage computing device.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a mail piece printer for printing documents that will be combined into the mail pieces.

4.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the mail processing components include at least one of a folder and an inserter.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the controller and the computer
processing system are the same device.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the controller, the computer processing
system and the postage computing device are the same device.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the postage application printer is a
high-speed ink jet printer.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the postage application
prints other information on ~~one or more of the mail pieces~~ the mail piece of said plurality of mail
pieces in addition to the postage information.

10.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the other information
includes one or more items selected from the group consisting of:

      marketing information;

      address information; and

      an envelope border.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method for applying postage to mail pieces in a high-
speed mail processing system comprising:

      receiving processing instructions that identify how each mail piece of said mail pieces
should be processed;

      controlling the components of the high-speed processing system to comply with the
processing instructions;

      individually calculating a postage value for said each ~~individual~~ mail piece of said mail
pieces; and

      generating an information based postage indicia, using said calculated postage value, for
an individual mail piece of said each mail piece of said mail pieces in parallel with the individual
mail piece being physically processed by one or more of the components, including at least one
of a folder and an inserter, of said high-speed mail processing system; and

printing the calculated postage value on each mail piece of said mail pieces, wherein said information based postage indicia is available for printing at the time the ~~corresponding one of the~~ individual mail piece of said each mail piece of said mail pieces arrives at a printer for said printing.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

folding the mail pieces;

inserting the mail pieces into an envelope; and

printing the calculated postage on each envelope.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the postage value is calculated without weighing the mail pieces.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

printing other information on one or more of the mail pieces in addition to the postage value for that piece.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the other information includes one or more items selected from the group consisting of:

marketing information;

address information; and

an envelope border.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

performing a quality control analysis on one or more of the calculated postage values.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

printing documents to be included in each mail piece prior to folding the mail piece.

19.   (Currently Amended) A system for processing mail pieces comprising:

means for receiving processing instructions that identify how each mail piece should be processed;

means for controlling the components of a high-speed processing system in accordance with the processing instructions;

means for calculating a postage value for each individual mail piece based upon a count of the number of documents included in each said individual mail piece and weights of the documents, said ~~weights determined, and~~ postage value calculated[[,]] without weighing the individual mail piece, using information from said processing instructions, and in parallel with the high-speed processing of said mail piece; and

a printer controlled in accordance with the processing instructions, for printing the calculated postage value on each mail piece.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the printer is a high-speed printer that is capable of printing the postage value at any position or orientation on the mail pieces.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein a weight of each mail piece varies depending upon the number of pages included in each mail piece, and wherein the postage value for each mail piece is calculated based upon a count of the number of pages included for that mail piece and weights of the pages.